

Eastern Arc Mountains and Coastal Forests of Tanzania and Kenya

CEPF INVESTMENT PLANNED IN REGION

\$7 million

QUICK FACTS

In Tanzania, water flowing from the Eastern Arc forests is the source of 90 percent of the country's hydroelectric power. The forests are also the source of water for major cities.

While the Eastern Arc forests once covered more than 23,000 square kilometers in both Kenya and Tanzania, more recent estimates place the remaining forest cover as low as 2,000 square kilometers.

Five monkey species and at least four species of prosimian primates are unique, or endemic, to this region. Found only along the Tana River in Kenya, the Tana River red colobus is Critically Endangered. Only 1,000-1,200 of the Critically Endangered Zanzibar red colobus remain in the wild.

The region is home to 20 out of 21 species of the African violet, which form the basis of a global houseplant trade.

The Eastern Arc Mountains comprise a chain of 12 mountain blocks stretching some 900 kilometers from Tanzania to Kenya.

The Eastern Arc Mountains and Coastal Forests of Tanzania and Kenya region runs along the coasts of these two East African countries and includes Zanzibar.

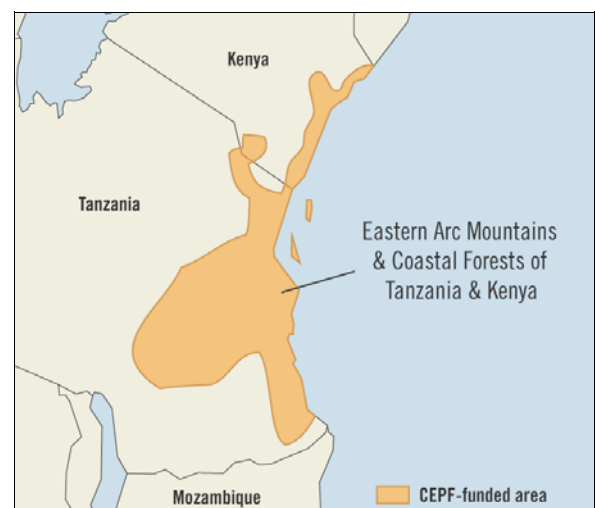
The region has two distinct habitats - the Coastal Forests and the Eastern Arc Mountains. Together, they harbor at least 1,500 plant species found nowhere else, as well as unique mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians. There are 333 globally threatened species, including the Critically Endangered Aders' duiker (*Cephalophus adersi*) and the Endangered Zanzibar or Kirk's red colobus (*Procolobus kirki*), found only in Zanzibar's Jozani Forest.

Previously classified as a biodiversity hotspot itself, the region now lies within two hotspots—the Eastern Afromontane Hotspot and the Coastal Forests of Eastern Africa Hotspot—identified as part of a hotspots reappraisal released in 2005. Hotspots are Earth's biologically richest places. They hold especially high numbers of species found nowhere else and face extreme threats: Each hotspot has already lost at least 70 percent of its original natural vegetation.

THREATS

The habitats are notably fragmented, making threatened species within key sites highly vulnerable to extinction and further habitat loss. Agricultural encroachment, timber extraction and charcoal production are the greatest threats to habitat in this region, although weak management capacity within government and communities is a serious issue.

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CEPF STRATEGY

Within the Eastern Arc Mountains and Coastal Forests, the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) aims to improve knowledge and appreciation of biodiversity among the local populations and stimulate support for conservation. In conjunction with this, a commitment to scientific best practices will improve biological knowledge in the region and show practical applications of conservation science.

The strategy is underpinned by conservation outcomes—targets against which the success of investments can be measured. These targets are defined at three levels: species (extinctions avoided), sites (areas protected) and landscapes (biodiversity conservation corridors created).

As a result, CEPF investment is focused on conserving the region's 333 globally threatened species, which are primarily found in 160 sites. In addition, key parts of the strategy focus on five select sites for maximum impact (see strategic directions below). The strategy also includes a special focus on the linkages between people and biodiversity conservation.

The five-year strategy, called an ecosystem profile and approved by the CEPF Donor Council in 2003, builds on the results of a number of studies and workshops with diverse stakeholders. CEPF began awarding grants in this region in 2004 and, together with partners, is now actively managing and expanding its investment portfolio.

STRATEGIC FUNDING DIRECTIONS

CEPF investments in the Eastern Arc Mountains and Coastal Forests are guided by five strategic directions and related investment priorities that were agreed upon at a stakeholders meeting in March 2003. Each project must be linked to one of the strategic directions to be approved for funding:

1. Increase the ability of local populations to benefit from and contribute to biodiversity conservation, especially in and around Lower Tana River Forests; Taita Hills; East Usambaras/Tanga; Udzungwas; and Jozani Forest
2. Restore and increase connectivity among fragmented forest patches, especially in Lower Tana River Forests; Taita Hills; East Usambaras/Tanga; and Udzungwas
3. Improve biological knowledge (all 160 sites eligible)
4. Establish a small grants program (all 160 sites eligible) that focuses on Critically Endangered species and small-scale efforts to increase connectivity of biologically important habitat patches
5. Develop and support efforts for further fundraising

ABOUT US

CEPF is a joint initiative of Conservation International (CI), the Global Environment Facility, the Government of Japan, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation and the World Bank. CI acts as the administrative partner.

CEPF provides strategic assistance to nongovernmental organizations, community groups and other civil society partners to help safeguard biodiversity hotspots—the biologically richest and most threatened areas on Earth. A fundamental goal is to ensure civil society is engaged in conserving the hotspots.

In the Eastern Arc Mountains and Coastal Forests region, a coordination unit of four organizations guides CEPF investments and works directly with stakeholders to ensure an effective, efficient and coordinated approach to achieve the outcomes.

The groups are the BirdLife International-Africa Secretariat, the International Centre for Insect Physiology and Ecology, the Tanzania Forest Conservation Group and the WWF East African Regional Programme Office. In Kenya, the BirdLife Partner is Nature Kenya and in Tanzania, the Wildlife Conservation Society of Tanzania.

HOW TO LEARN MORE

For more information about CEPF, the strategy for this region and how to apply for grants, visit www.cepf.net.